

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 AGR-20 TRSE-00

SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 IO-14 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /128 W

----- 091539

R 031554Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8051

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, SREF, TO

SUBJ: FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974

REF: (A) STATE 156186; (B) STATE 166812

1. SUMMARY: BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN LOME, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS RECENTLY IN NORTHERN TOGO, EMBASSY BELIEVES REGION IS NOT YET SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, AS DEFINED IN SAHELIAN TERMS. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY "SOME HUNDREDS" OF REFUGEES WITH THEIR HERDS, BUT THERE IS NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF STARVATION. FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION IS DESCRIBED OFFICIALLY AS "PRECARIOUS", OWING TO POOR JANUARY MILLET HARVEST, LATE SPRING RAINS, AND LACK OF RESERVES. IF PRESENT MILLET HARVEST IS POOR, SOME SHORTAGES WILL ARISE. GOT IS "MONITORING" SITUATION AND HAS REQUESTED SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS GRAIN FROM WFP, BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE ALARMED.

2. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL (A), THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN NORTHERN TOGO, DEFINED AS TWO NORTHERNMOST
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CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS: DAPANGO AND MANGO, SAVANNAH REGION NORTH OF

9 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH LAT. POPULATION (1973): 262,000. AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL 1000-1200 MM. ONE RAINY SEASON, WITH HEAVIEST RAINS USUALLY JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. MILLET AND SORGHUM PRINCIPAL GRAIN CROPS, USUALLY SOWN IN APRIL. TWO VARIETIES OF MILLET USED: "THREE MONTHS MILLET" WHICH IS HARVESTED JULY-AUGUST, "SIX MONTHS MILLET", HARVESTED NOVEMBER-JANUARY. SUMMER HARVEST TIDES POPULATION OVER TO MAIN HARVEST THREE MONTHS LATER.

3. PRESENT SITUATION: JANUARY MILLET HARVEST IN DAPANGO AREA WAS "DEFICIENT" ACCORDING TO GOT CHIEF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, BUT RESULTS IN OTHER PARTS OF AREA "NOT BAD". CHIEF OF GOT METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE SAYS TOTAL RAINFALL THIS YEAR IN AREA ABOUT AVERAGE, BUT CAME LATE. (FROM JANUARY 1 TO MAY 31, DAPANGO RECEIVED 162 MM. COMPARED TO 213 MM. SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR; MANGO, HOWEVER, REPORTS 155 MM. VS 140 MM. LAST YEAR.) MET SERVICE ALSO SAYS COUNTRY HAS 5-YEAR RAIN CYCLE, AND NEXT YEAR SHOULD BE HEAVIEST IN PRESENT CYCLE. DAPANGO-BASED SORAD DES SAVANES (SORAD: SOCIETE REGIONALE D'AMENAGEMENT ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT) DESCRIBES JANUARY HARVEST CAMPAIGN AS "UNE GRANDE CATASTROPHE", BUT THIS REFERS MORE TO SORAD'S PROBLEMS IN COLLECTING LOANS MADE TO FARMERS AND GETTING THEM TO SELL CROPS TO SORAD AT GOVT-FIXED PRICES INSTEAD OF TO MARKET WOMEN WHO OFFER MUCH MORE. SORAD ALSO COMPLAINS OF CLANDESTINE EXPORT OF CROPS TO GHANA AND UPPER VOLTA.

4. BANQUES TOGOLAISE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (BTD) HEAD, WHO COMES FROM DAPANGO AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT AREA'S CHRONIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT, STATES THERE ARE NOW "SOME HUNDREDS" OF REFUGEES FROM UPPER VOLTA IN DAPANGO AREA, WHO HAVE BROUGHT HERDS WITH THEM, INCLUDING MANY GOATS. HEAD OF GOT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SAYS GOT "MONITORING" SITUATION; HE HAS SEEN NO RPT NO REPORTS OF DROUGHT OR STARVATION OR ESPECIALLY ADVERSE CONDITIONS IN NORTH.

6. GOT REPORT ON SITUATION, STILL IN DRAFT, SAYS: "IN ANY CASE, IT APPEARS THAT WITH 1900 CALORIES PER DAY PER INHABITANT, SITUATION OF REGION IN REGARD TO FOODSTUFFS IS PRECARIOUS AND CANNOT STAND A BAD YEAR."

7. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO TOGO (WHO IS ALSO CANHICOM TO GHANA) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD RECENTLY VISITED GHANA AREA IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT NORTHERN TOGO, WHERE HE SAW DEFINITE CLIMATIC DETERIORATION OVER THREE YEARS OF HIS SERVICE GHANA. HE ALSO MENTIONED GOG TRYING TO CONCEAL THESE CONDITIONS IN NORTH.

8. INCIDENTALLY, WEIGHING ALL ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES ITS AND DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES TO MIN TEVI'S REQUEST FOR WHEAT (REFTEL (B)) STILL VALID AND NO RPT NO JUSTIFICATION EXISTS

FOR INTRODUCING WHEAT INTO NON-WHEAT CONSUMING AREA FOR RELIEF
PURPOSES AT THIS TIME. WE HEARTILY ENDORSE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER
(PARA 3, SAME REFTTEL) HAVE US EXPERTS UNDERTAKE RECONNAISSANCE
NORTHERN TOGO.

9. AIRPOUCHING AID/AFR RAINFALL STATISTICS.

10 EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE CONTACT WITH GOT AGRICULTURAL STATISCICAL
AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AS WELL AS OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE
SOURCES. FIELD TRIPS BY EMBOFFS PLANNED IN NEAR FUTURE.
RAWLS

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